

Walnut Dollison Historic District
900 E. Elm Street
Albert A. Hamel House
Springfield
Greene County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1252T

HABS
MO,
39-SPRIF
35-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

Historic American Buildings Survey Architectural and Historical Data

900 EAST ELM STREET

Albert A. Hamel House

Location: Springfield, Greene County, Missouri
Cadastral grid: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S24, T29N, R22W
USGS quadrangle: Springfield Missouri 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
UTM coordinates: 15.475DD5.4117455

Present Owner: Jack L. Barham

Present Usage: multiple unit residence

Statement of Significance: Albert A. Hamel, a traveling salesman for the Eagle Candy Company, built this large frame bungalow in 1921. It remained in family hands for almost thirty years after. The house displays a single sweeping gable with exposed rafter tips and projecting triangular brackets, full-width open front porch, second story rear sleeping porch and a picturesque array of window and door openings - features which place the house within mainstream bungalow styling prevalent at the time. Its recent conversion into apartments has compromised the integrity of the interior, but the exterior remains in virtually original condition - a representative example of the classic bungalow configuration.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1921
2. Architect/builder: not known
3. Original and subsequent owners: 9DD East Elm Street is sited on a 58'x 115' tract of land legally described: beginning at the southeast corner of Dollison and Elm Streets, east 58', south 115', west 58', north to the beginning. The following references are taken from the abstract for the property, presently held by the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority of the City of Springfield, Missouri:

1837 Plat Book of Entries, 1 December 1837. United States of America to James Dollison. Northeast quarter, S24, T29N, R22W.

1848 U.S. Land Patent, 1 September 1848; Recorded in Book 326, page 84. United States of America by President James K. Polk to James Dollison. (consideration: Certificate #4-2D5r).

1865 Warranty Deed, 17 June 1865; Recorded in Book N, page 138. James G. and Florence E. Dollison, James C. and Paulina Franklin, Samuel and Mary E. Gott and Nancy Williams (nee Dollison), heirs-in-law of James Dollison, deceased, to Edwin T. Robberson, "the four undivided one-fifth parts of the north-east quarter of Section 24, Township 29, Range 22, excepting about 58 acres sold by James Dollison during his lifetime." (consideration: \$4000.00).

1865 Deed of Attorney, 5 December 1865; Recorded in Book N, page 358. Sample and Emiline Orr by J.R.D. Thompson to Edwin T. Robberson,

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- "the undivided one-fifth part of the north-east quarter of Section 24, Township 29, Range 22, remaining unsold by James Dollison, deceased, and being some 10D acres, more or less, of said tract which was the property of said James Dollison at the time of his death and by decent cost, the said undivided one-fifth part became the property of said Emiline Orr." (consideration: \$1250.00).
- 1866 Warranty Deed, 26 February 1866; Recorded in Book S, page 35. Sample and Emiline Orr, heirs of James Dollison, deceased, to E.T. Robberson, "undivided one-fifth part of the north-east quarter of Section 24, Township 29, Range 22, excepting about 58 acres sold by James Dollison during his life time." (consideration: \$1250.00).
- 1867 Warranty Deed, 24 July 1867; Recorded in Book Q, page 84. Edwin T. and Elizabeth J. Robberson to Lydia McKeahan. (consideration: \$1100.00).
- 1871 Quit Claim Deed, 8 September 1871; Recorded in Book Q, page 387. Lydia K. and F.W. See to Edwin T. Robberson. (consideration: \$10.00).
- 1871 Warranty Deed, 11 September 1871; Recorded in Book Y, page 143. Edwin T. and Elizabeth J. Robberson to George C. See. (consideration: \$400.00).
- 1871 Warranty Deed, 18 September 1871; Recorded in Book Y, page 166. George C. and R. Rena See to Lydia K. See. (consideration: \$1100.00).
- 1886 Quit Claim Deed, 23 October 1886; Recorded in Book 64, page 516. George Wall to Lydia K. See. (consideration: \$1400.00). 88'x 376' lot.
- 1894 Trustee's Deed, 8 September 1894; Recorded in Book 141, page 198. Lydia K. and Fred W. See by Benjamin U. Massey, trustee, to Nora A. McDaniel. (consideration: \$1300.00).
- 1903 Warranty Deed, 26 September 1903; Recorded in Book 211, page 510. Nora C. McDaniel (formerly Nora C. Aumoth) and H.B. McDaniel to Albert A. and Fannie M. Hamel. (consideration: \$1305.00).
- 1942 Warranty Deed, 30 September 1942; Recorded in Book 730, page 300. Fannie M. Hamel, widow of Albert A. Hamel, to Barbara H. Crain, Mildred H. Luckenbill, Alberta H. Forgey and John David Hamel. (consideration: \$1.00).
- 1947 Quit Claim Deed, 16 July 1947; Recorded in Book 814, page 492. Mildred H. and Gilbert H. Luckenbill, Alberta H. and John Francis Forgey, J. David and Elfa J. Hamel and Barbara H. and Frank W. Crain to Fannie M. Hamel. (consideration: \$1.00).
- 1947 Warranty Deed, 21 August 1947; Recorded in Book 835, page 68. Fannie M. Hamel to Gladys C. Hettinger. (consideration: \$1.00).
- 1947 Warranty Deed, 7 October 1947; Recorded in Book 836, page 190. Gladys C. Hettinger to Frank M. and Vesta E. Luby. (consideration: \$1.00).

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- 1949 Quit Claim Deed, 22 June 1949; Recorded in Book 858, page 457.
Frank M. and Vesta E. Luby to L.A. Burger. (consideration: \$1.00).
 - 1949 Quit Claim Deed, 1 July 1949; Recorded in Book 858, page 458.
L.A. Burger to Vesta E. Luby and Amy Parks as joint tenants.
(consideration: \$1.00).
 - 1950 Warranty Deed, 13 September 1950; Recorded in Book 893, page 459.
Vesta E. Berry (formerly Vesta E. Luby) and Amy and Ollie Parks
to J. Nathan and Minnie Mae Montgomery. (consideration: \$1.00).
- 4. Original plans, construction of the house: The Hamel House, as its exterior appears today, is in essentially original condition. A classic bungalow configuration, it features a sweeping single gable roof with the entrance and front porch centered on the main facade.
 - 5. Alterations and additions: The house has been changed little since its construction. The only major exterior addition is the construction of a canopied carport at the rear (south) of the rear wing. Interior alterations have been more significant involving the subdivision of the building into three small apartments (one on the first floor, two on the second). These include removing and constructing walls, installing bathrooms and kitchens on the second floor, reconfiguration and construction of stairs and substantial changes in finish materials.

B. Historical Persons and Events Associated with the House

900 East Elm Street is situated in a neighborhood that was developed at the turn of the century for tenancy by the professional/merchant class: lawyers, doctors, store owners, etc. The persons associated with the house for the longest period were Albert Hamel and his family, who owned the property from Hamel's purchase in 1907 until his widow's sale of it in 1947. Hamel was a traveling salesman for the Eagle Candy Company, a man in the middle class known locally in the neighborhood.

C. Sources of Information

- 1. Old views: none located.
- 2. Bibliography
 - a. Primary Sources
 - Sanborn Insurance Map, New York, N.Y.: Sanborn Map Company, 1910 and 1933.
 - Springfield City Directories, 1917-1930, various publishers.
 - Tax Records: 900 East Elm Street, Greene County Assessor's Office, Springfield Missouri.
 - Water Tap Records: 900 East Elm Street, City Utilities, Springfield Missouri.
 - b. Secondary Sources
 - Flanders, Robert, Principal Investigator. "A Cultural Resources

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Survey of the Proposed University Plaza Project, City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri: 1981," Southwest Missouri State University Center for Archeological Research, October 1981.

Quick, David. "Historic Inventory," inventory card for 900 East Elm Street, Missouri Office of Historic Preservation, Jefferson City Missouri, May 1981.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A large, two-story frame building, the Hamel House displays the massing and detailing which distinguish it as a classically styled late Bungalow. It is a handsomely proportioned Arts and Crafts influenced structure - a typical example of its type.
2. Condition of fabric: fair - good. The exterior has been maintained to some extent and is in good condition today. The interior, although structurally sound, has been rather poorly kept up and has undergone a good deal of deterioration at the hands of its student tenants. The building will be demolished.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: main gabled section: 30'3"x 31'2"
rear wing 19'3"x 11'7"
2. Foundations: poured-in-place concrete perimeter walls under main section; alternately laid brick under front porch.
3. Walls: horizontally placed, narrow exposure beveled siding with plain corner boards.
4. Structural system: lightweight framing using milled lumber.
5. Porches: A single-story open porch extends the width of the front (north) facade. Roofed by an extension of the main roof gable, it features massive stuccoed corner columns with stuccoed pedestals flanking both sides of the central concrete stair. Atop these pedestals have been inserted steel lolly columns - a more recent addition to cut the span of the front spandrel. Square balustered handrails span between the columns and the pedestals and the columns and the walls. At the rear of the building is a second-story sleeping porch, not a porch in the classic sense, but a multi-windowed summer bedroom. This has recently been subdivided into two kitchens for the upstairs apartments.
6. Chimneys: A single exterior gable end chimney is situated on the west wall, forward of the roof ridge. Made of brick and serving the fireplace in first floor living room, it steps in just beneath the roof and the steps are capped with cut stone copings.
7. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: A lighted front door is centered on the north

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facade. It is relatively unembellished, with plain casings and beveled sill.

- b. Windows: A variety of different size and type windows is placed picturesquely along the front and side walls, typical of the bungalow style. Paired 6/1 double-hung windows flank the front entrance on either side on the north facade. The east and west sides display several types of window: 6/1 double-hung, 6-light paired casements, 1-light casements, 1-light awnings, blind attic louvres and on the east side toward the rear of the main section a projecting single-story square bay with a pair of 6/1 double-hungs. These openings are generally framed with plain board casings and slip sills, with moulded dripcaps.

8. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: The main section is covered with an asphalt-shingled, moderately pitched gable which sweeps over the building and front porch with the ridge parallel with the main facade. The raking eaves are supported from the walls by cantilevered triangular brackets and the horizontal eaves feature exposed rafter tips. At the rear of the main section a hipped roof springs from the gabled surface, covering the rear wing; a small shed roof covers the side bay. Flat metal roofs cover the main carport and later extension on the south side.
- b. Cornices: plain board raking cornices; no horizontal cornices.
- c. Dormers : one large gabled dormer is centered on the front facade. It contains a pair of 6/1 double-hung windows and, like the main roof, has cantilevered brackets, plain raking cornice and exposed rafter tips.

C. Description of Interior

- 1. Floor plan: Despite a complex outward appearance, the Hamel House is a simple rectangular structure with a smaller symmetrical rear wing. The interior spaces have been chopped up into small apartments and with a few exceptions bear little resemblance to their original condition. The front entry leads directly into the living room in the northwest corner of the first floor. To the east of this is the dining room, a space slightly smaller than the living room and divided by a wide cased opening. Behind these is a warren of smaller spaces: the bedroom in the southwest corner, a bathroom adjoining it, the kitchen in the southeast corner and a series of small stairs leading to the basement, the second floor and to intermediate levels. The second floor is divided into two apartments, with the typical principal and ancillary spaces divided more or less symmetrically.
- 2. Interior finish: The interior features the standard array of finishes: patterned wallpaper on the walls and ceilings, carpet, pine boards or vinyl-asbestos tile on the floors, plain casings with moulded dripcaps on window and door openings, plain baseboards with shoes and a brick-faced fireplace in the west wall of the living room on the first floor. The firebox is topped by a moulded wood mantel and the fireplace is

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flanked on either side by a built-in bookcase.

3. Stairways: An enclosed straight-run main stairway ascends south-north through the center of the building from a small stair hall on the first floor to a small landing on the second. This is probably a replacement or major modification of the original stair.
4. Doorways and doors: Interior doors are primarily four- and five-panel, with plain enframements.
5. Mechanical systems: The house is serviced with electricity and plumbing; it is heated with forced air central furnaces for each level.

D. Description of Site

1. General setting and orientation: The Hamel House is located in a suburban residential neighborhood characterized by large frame single family residences. Although many of its neighbors predate it by two or more decades, the house and surrounding landscaping display a typical pedestrian scale and ambiance. The neighborhood was created late in the nineteenth century by the subdivision of several large land tracts. Located four blocks east of Springfield's central business district, it encompasses several distinct smaller neighborhoods which display a variety of housing styles. Although the area retains its original residential character, many of the individual structures have been compromised through insensitive or deferred maintenance and subdivision into student housing. The Hamel House is situated facing north on a corner lot - the southeast corner of Elm Street and Dollison Avenue. The building is surrounded by typical landscaping: grass and ground cover, large deciduous trees and foundation shrubbery. The driveway angles in to the rear carport from Dollison Avenue and is paralleled by a sidewalk to the rear entrance. Another concrete sidewalk extends the short distance from Elm Street to the front porch.
2. Outbuildings: none.

Prepared by: Clayton B. Fraser
Principal, Fraserdesign
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See Shockley Firestone Building (HABS No. MO-1245), and Hampton Wedge Historic District (HABS No. MO-1253) for further information.